

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 490  
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to honor Reverend Beverly A. Asbury on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body recognize those who in their years of work have performed with extraordinary dedication and unprecedented devotion; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Beverly A. Asbury is one such outstanding person who has served Vanderbilt University with honor and distinction for nearly 30 years as chaplain, Director of Religion Affairs and as an adjunct professor at the university's divinity school; and

WHEREAS, born in Elberton, Georgia, Reverend Asbury received his undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia and a Masters of Divinity Degree from Yale Divinity School. He received his Doctorate of Divinity from the College of Wooster and prior to that was an Underwood Fellow at the Institute for Public Life; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Asbury's special studies have taken him to the University of Chicago, the Presbyterian Institute on Industrial Relations, the Israel Study Seminar, the Independent Study on the Holocaust and the Conference on Legacy of the Holocaust at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem; and

WHEREAS, a man of immense talent, Reverend Asbury began his storied career in the pastorate in Zebulon, North Carolina. Following his tenure as a chaplain and assistant professor of religion at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, Reverend Asbury served in the pastorate at the Westminster Church, the College of Wooster in Ohio. In 1967 he became

University Chaplain, Director of Religious Affairs at Vanderbilt and two years later was named adjunct professor at Vanderbilt Divinity School; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Asbury is an active and vital part of the community and his profession, serving on numerous boards and committees during his time at Vanderbilt, including: the Tennessee State Commission on the Holocaust, which he has adroitly served for nine years as chairperson; the executive board of the Association of Holocaust Organizations; the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Special Advisory Panel on Education and Education Committee; co-chair of the International Exhibit of "Anne Frank in the World, 1929-1945"; the Association for the College and University Religious Affairs; the Christian Study Group on Judaism; and the Alive-Hospice of Nashville, Inc., of which he is founder and a board member; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Asbury has also contributed his knowledge and expertise as a founder of the Vanderbilt Holocaust Lectures, Vanderbilt Martin Luther King, Jr. Lectures and the Vanderbilt Holocaust Art Collection; and

WHEREAS, he has served in prominent leadership roles with the American Friends of Nes Ammim, Inc., the National Christian Leadership Council for Israel and the National Campus Ministry Association; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Asbury is the author of numerous publications, some of which include the Religious Studies Review, Struggling With the Holocaust to Revise Theology; Bearing Witness to the Holocaust 1939-1989, "Gyorgy Kadar's Drawings As Narrative"; Gyorgy Kadar, Survivor of Death, Witness to Life, "Introduction to the Vanderbilt Holocaust Art"; and On Jordan's Stormy Banks, "The Trip to Mother's Funeral" in "Perspectives on Southern Religion"; and

WHEREAS, he is the recipient of the prestigious Humanitarian Award, a one-time award given by the Southern Region of Hadassah; the Friendship Award, in recognition of his interfaith work; the First Annual Choice Award, for contributions to better human relations in Nashville through education; the Brotherhood-Sisterhood Award, given by the Nashville Chapter of the

National Conference of Christians and Jews; and was selected by *Nashville Magazine* as one of the city's top 50 "shapers and dreamers, 1965-85"; and

WHEREAS, his many honors and accolades aside, Reverend Asbury is most appreciative of the love and support he shares with his devoted wife, Vicky Hake Asbury; their children, Valerie, Charissa and Mark; and four grandchildren, Megan, Cooper and Carrie Vaughan, and Alexandra Kim Asbury; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Asbury exemplifies the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a great Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Asbury's adroit qualities include the uncommon ability to motivate others to fully realize their potential, perhaps the most valuable of all skills; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we extend to Reverend Beverly A. Asbury our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and continued success in future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Mr. Asbury with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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